



SEATTLEMUN EXAMPLE POSITION PAPER

First and Last Name
United States of America
XYZ High School
Economic and Social Council

Topic A: Accessibility of Clean Water and Proper Sanitation in Developing Countries

An estimated of 2.5 billion people lack access to improved sanitation, globally (about 35% or the entire world's population). While, at the same time, 780 million people lack access to clean water—most of the affected people being in developing countries; Although, these perplexing numbers can only exemplify the gravity of the issue, they implicitly highlight the interconnections between access to clean water and sanitation. This issue is in immediate need of a multilateral solution that goes in depth, and addresses the economic, social and political factors that influence the problem. Moreover, it requires the kind of resources that only an international cooperation like the UN can provide.

Previously, the UN has taken a holistic, fundamental approach to solve this issue. Goal number 6 of the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals states, to "ensure access to water and sanitation for all". As well as, in April 2011, in the A/HRC/RES/16/2, there was the implementation of the human rights special rapporteur for "fulfilling his or her mandate...emphasis to practical solutions with regard to its implementation." A/HRC/RES/15/9, further reiterated that water sanitation is an of existing international law that legally binds member states to be held accountable for ensuring the human security of their citizens. However, these solutions have been proven to be ineffective due to their general and nonspecific nature. The United States endorsed The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in 1961, and due to its successful infrastructure in water development, 4.3 million people have gained access to improved sanitation since 2014; while 3.26 million people have gained access to improved drinking water. The USA has also provided \$247 million (the fiscal year of 2016) to support Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programs in more than 35 countries—through USAID/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

A recent study conducted by HaloSource (leading global clean water technology company), found that there is an evident connection between the availability of safe drinking water and global economic growth. Specifically, this study found that lack of access to clean water is likely to impinge upon economic growth by 2050—and emerging economies and developing countries are likely to be affected first, and this leads to wider implications for the global economy. The USA strongly contributes because of the social, economic and global responsibility of a well-developed country like the USA. The firm position of the USA currently stands as the US is willing to provide aid and support for these grave and global issues, due to recent cutbacks in foreign aid (by the newly elected administration)—detailed in the "America dfffcvFirst" plan; including our president's proposal to cut foreign aid by 32%. Due to the recent changes in administration, the United States cannot provide a substantial source of funding. Therefore, the US suggest a fund where 0.2% of each participating nation's GDP would go towards the financing of the fund. This fund would be managed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the World Bank. Essentially, the purpose of this fund is the allocate money to NGOs (such as Generosity.org, Water for Good etc.) to implement clean water and sustainable sanitation techniques in the developing nations.



Topic B: Improvement of Infrastructure in Rural Areas

The infrastructure of a member state is the framework for the economy, social demographic and political agenda. Improving infrastructure is a complicated issue in countries that don't have the economic stability and finances to fund it. If viewed from a certain perspective—infrastructure is at the root of most of the problems that commonly occur in rural areas. And, by improving the infrastructure in rural areas—we can help not only grow the emerging economies but provide social relief to the citizens. The United States that the root problem with lack of improved infrastructure is that it doesn't support economic growth and due to the rising population in these countries—there needs to be sustainable, improved infrastructure as well. The USA's position on improving infrastructure in rural areas—is mostly focused on providing some financial aid and helping out but not as much—due to the recent administration's cutbacks. Specifically, the organization that the USA uses to take care of the international funding is the USAID, and there is very firm position on this issue. "Improving infrastructure fosters stability and accelerates economic growth, particularly in countries recovering from conflict and disaster, allowing them to progress beyond assistance." (USAID.gov) This excerpt beautifully illustrates specifically why the USA wants to help these rural areas and countries—and the firm position. Through the main USAID organization, the USA has previously helped a lot of countries globally (in rural areas). For example, in Afghanistan, due to USAID assistance, it's newly commercialized company has reduced electricity loss from 60 to 35 percent. Also, in the Philippines, the USAID has provided electricity to more than 13,000 households in 474 remote rural villages using micro-hydropower systems. Essentially, the USA believes in creating strong local institutions to finance and manage infrastructure—along with regulatory environments for its operation. This is because this approach is very sustainable and most of the current investments can only meet a "small portion of overall infrastructure needs." (USAID.gov) There have been numerous instances of past actions made by the UN on the topic of improving infrastructure in rural areas. Goal 9 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, states, to "Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation." This emphasizes the needs for a more sustainable and long-term solution to this complex issue. It further details that undeveloped infrastructures limit access to health care and education." This highlight, the sort of social problems and complexities that this can create, and how a multilateral and cooperative solution will be needed. An ECOSOC special meeting on "Innovations for Infrastructure Development and Sustainable Industrialization." (UN General Assembly Database), directly correlates with the United States policy to implement regulatory frameworks to help build institutions that are sustainable, thus showcasing a need for this in the desired solution.

The USA endorses a fund that requires 0.4 percent of each participating countries GDP to be invested. It recognizes that the root solution of this issue should be an organization that promotes and implements more of a sustainable approach to tackling this issue. The fund's money will be managed by the IMF and the World Bank. Essentially, what the funding will go for is—more of creation and limited funding of local institutions that manage and finance country-specific infrastructure. This is because the USA recognizes that each country is very specific and diverse; encompassing solution for all nations is not effective, nor is it easy to regulate.



Work Cited

https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/wash_statistics.html
<http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/water/>
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>
<https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/water-and-sanitation>
http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/human_right_to_water.shtml
http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/pdf/human_right_to_water_and_sanitation_milestones.pdf
<https://www.usaid.gov/who-we-are>
<https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/global-health/maternal-and-child-health/technical-areas/water-sanitation-hygiene-wash>
<https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/how-we-do-it/humanitarian-sectors/water-sanitation-and-hygiene>
<https://faculty.washington.edu/categ/healthanddevgbf/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/03/Access-to-Safe-Drinking-Water.pdf>
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-now/2017/07/27/what-america-first-means-for-us-foreign-aid/>
<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2017/may/31/trumps-aid-budget-is-breathtakingly-cruel-cuts-like-these-will-kill-people>
<https://www.classy.org/blog/5-nonprofits-make-clean-water-global-reality/>
<https://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/economic-growth-and-trade/infrastructure>
<https://in.reuters.com/article/idINIndia-51327420100912>
<https://www.srbsteel.com/content/7-infrastructure-facts-you-must-know>
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/infrastructure-industrialization/>
<http://www.un.org/pga/71/2017/03/27/ecosoc-special-meeting-on-innovations-for-infrastructure-development-and-sustainable-industrialization/>